Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Benson (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,272). This rejection is defective because Benson fails to disclose each and every feature set forth in the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Independent claim 1 recites:

"A method for preventing an unread activity from being bounced-back to an originating server during a replication operation, comprising:

storing an identification of an originating server of a replicated unread activity in an unread log of a receiving server; and

during a subsequent replication process initiated by the receiving server, preventing replication of the unread activity back to the originating server."

The Examiner alleges that the step of "storing an identification of an **originating** server of a replicated unread activity in an unread log of a **receiving** server" corresponds to the "Per_User_GUID 36" disclosed in column 4, lines 16-18 of Benson. This is incorrect. On the contrary, Benson's Per_User_GUID 36 is the "identifier of the **replica** server to which the master copy was last copied." Thus, the Per_User_GUID 36 identifies a receiving server, not the server that

originated the data that is replicated as set forth in independent claim 1 of the present patent application.

In the Response to Arguments section of the above-referenced Final Office Action, the Examiner states that while Benson "does say that the Per_User_GUID represents the ID of the replica server, conceptually, however, the replica server becomes the originating server as soon as the changes that are made on a server are passed on to the next server." The Examiner further states that when "changes are propagated from this server, the Per_User_GUID would now represent the new originating server." This is incorrect. In such a case, as admitted by the Examiner, the Per_User_GUID would now represent the ID of the next server (i.e., next replica server) to which the changes have been passed on by the new originating server.

The Examiner further alleges that the process of opening communication with an assigned replica, as disclosed in column 4, lines 43-49 of Benson, corresponds to the claimed step of "during a subsequent replication process initiated by the receiving server, preventing replication of the unread activity back to the originating server." This is also incorrect. On the contrary, this section of Benson discloses that if the Per_User_GUID in the master copy is different from the GUID of the replica server (see step 54, FIG. 3), the per user read/unread data is copied to that replica (see, step 56, FIG. 3). Then, if it is determined that the per user read/unread data has changed (step 62, FIG. 3), that replica's GUID is used as the Per_User_GUID (see step 64, FIG. 3). However, if the

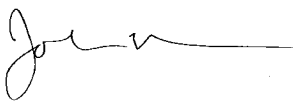
Per_User_GUID in the master copy is the same as the GUID of the replica server, that replica is opened (see step 58, FIG. 3). It should also be noted that this process is not initiated by a replica as set forth in independent claim 1 of the present patent application. Rather, this process is initiated when a user opens a folder on a client (see step 50, FIG. 3).

Independent claims 8, 15, and 22 are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-22 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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